

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 3, as suggested by the Examiner and as described below.

After entry of the amendments, claims 1-3 are pending in the application. None of the amendments adds new matter. Their entry is requested.

Office Action

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph - Enablement

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for allegedly lacking enablement. While the Examiner acknowledges that the specification is enabling for the particular HCV NS3 helicase proteins with a dU₈ oligonucleotide, the Examiner contends that the specification does not enable “all crystallizable and crystallized complexes encompassed by the claims.” Applicants traverse.

In the interest of advancing prosecution, however, applicants have amended claims 1 (and dependent claim 2) and 3 to recite a single-stranded dU oligonucleotide consisting of between 6 and 12 nucleotides. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the specification, e.g., page 14, first full paragraph. See also, page 66, first paragraph, where it is taught that dU₈, dU₁₀ and dU₁₂ show essentially the same electron density for the DNA.

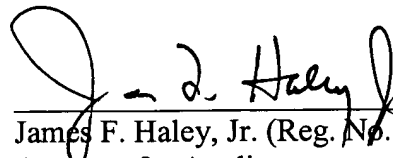
Application No.: 09/303,216
Office Action dated December 30, 2005
Response to Office Action dated June 30, 2006

Applicants reserve their right to pursue any cancelled subject matter in this or future applications claiming benefit herefrom.

Conclusion

Applicants request that the Examiner allow the pending claims to issue. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview would be helpful, he is invited to call the undersigned at any time.

Respectfully submitted,



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